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SCIENCE

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THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE ENDOWED UNIVERSITY

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At first glance there would seem to be opportunity, in this country, for more than one type of college and university, and if the opportunity, then the obligation and the inspiration. Historically there are two types, but under identical environmental influences they present to-day few distinguishing characters. They exhibit a phenomenon very rare and interesting in biology. While we have been speculating and searching about the origin of species by evolution, the history of the American colleges has recorded the almost complete disappearance of a species through imitation, a transmutation instead of a mutation! The endowed college, later called university, was the first type to appear on the American continent; but with the growth of the public school idea, with the outgrowth of those aristocratic remnants which the early settlers so unconsciously brought with them and so strongly exhibited, and with the immense addition to the English stock by immigration from continental Europe with its universities founded and maintained by the funds of the people, it was only natural that state universities should come into existence. For the most part they are found in those states which have nothing more tangible to connect them with the past than *traditions* of aristocracy, and at all events they prosper most, if one may judge by our usual American standards of dollars or of numbers, in the states in which the people is most thoroughly satisfied that the people can do no wrong. The future, the opportunity, of the endowed university may appear, therefore, to